PF Irish in California

# Primary Sources of Anti-English Activities in California, 1916-1936: The John Byrne Collection

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The modern Irish republican-nationalist tradition was born on the shores of California with the Fenian funeral of Terence Bellew McManus in San Francisco in 1861. A direct line can be traced from that extended event to the creation of the embryo of the independent nation sixty years later. During that interval, California's Irish-Americans figured prominently in numerous anti-English campaigns through their membership in various nationalist organizations. These activities gathered force during the First World War when many Irishmen saw England's woe as their chance for complete independence. In this country, to the extent that this opinion was coherently organized it usually took the shape of financial support for the republican ideas and policies of Eamon De Valera. The record of these activities in California on behalf of De Valera was preserved by John Byrne (1866-1962), a participant of relatively humble station, a warehouse worker, who resided in Los Angeles from the turn of the century. In the 1960's the materials were entrusted to the late professor Dr. Mary Condon who deposited them as the John Byrne Collection (ten boxes, ca. 800 documents) at the San Jose State University Library.[1]

The John Byrne Collection contains a wealth of primary sources pertaining to the organized work of various Irish nationalist associations in California from 1916 to 1936.[2] Between those years an Irish republican movement existed within the Irish-American community in California, and it contributed over one million dollars to the cause of Irish independence.

For that achievement, the California republican leaders were valued highly by Eamon De Valera, Ireland's most visible republican nationalist in this country. One might say that a cash nexus existed between them. The John Byrne Collection most obviously underscores that monied connection.[3]

The overwhelming thrust of the documents relate to the promotion and organization of one group--De Valera's American Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic (A.A.R.I.R.), which in 1920 succeeded the wartime Friends of Irish Freedom. Most documents consist of letters, news sheets, bulletins, bonds, checks, lists of officers and members, and detailed treasurer reports. They pertain to the national and state organizations, but the principal concentration of material centers upon the group in Los Angeles.[4]

The collection also has significant numbers of documents relating to other Irish-American organizations: about thirty items relating to the Friends of Irish Freedom,[5] about twenty pertaining to the Ancient Order of Hibernians (1916-1926),[6] and lesser amounts to the Celtic Cross Association, and its distributive outlet in Ireland, the Irish White Cross during the War of Independence (1919-1921).[7] Some ten documents also pertain to the American Trade Defense Commission which attempted to boycott British goods. It was not successful on the west coast.[8] There is an item on the American League for the Irish Freedom Fund,[9] and about twenty documents on the Irish Republican Soldiers and Prisoners Dependents' Fund which emerged during the Irish Civil War (1922-1923) and ultimately became an organ of the dissident Irish Republican

Army after the Civil War.[10] A large cache of material pertains to the origin and development of the Irish Press Corporation which De Valera instituted as a mouthpiece for his newly created Fianna Fail party in 1927.[11]

The collection abounds with important information on numerous Irish leaders and publicists of the independence cause. The visits of future Irish President Eamon De Valera are well documented. Between 1919 and 1930 he made six trips to California. Over 75 documents pertain to De Valera's attempt to exploit the California connection.[12] A few items relate to the visitations of his confidant and aide-de-camp Frank Aiken.[13] Austin Stack, who was the young Irish Republic's envoy in the United States and its chief bill collector, is also in evidence.[14] The papers reveal a good deal of the tragedy of the Capuchin exile Father Albert. He was the confessor of the Easter Rising rebels of 1916 who subsequently violated his holy vows by participating in the Four Courts uprising of Dublin in 1922, an event which precipitated the Irish Civil War.[15] That catastrophy is also recorded in the story of the youthful Irish republican army exile Tom Fay, who was tubercular and smuggled into the United States to gain sustenance from the California sun; but he too died not too long after his arrival.[16]

Many of the dissident women of the Irish republican cause appear in the collection as shooting stars--making a brief splash upon the scene, usually in quest of financial support for projects. Countess Markiewicz appears on behalf of an Irish Bond Drive. Her appearance in Los Angeles in May 1922

raised more money than any previous visit by any other Irish luminary.[17] The famous, or infamous, Maude Gonne is visible in her efforts on behalf of casualty dependents, and later, in her attempt to effect an opposition to De Valera's constitutional settlement of 1936.[18] Mrs. Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington's fund-raising tours are in evidence, as are those of Mary MacSwiney.[19] The mother of Easter Rising patriot Patrick Pearse, Mrs. Margaret Pearse, came to California on behalf of St. Enda--Patrick's Gaelic nationalist school. The Byrne papers reveal that she was more interested in undermining the Irish Free State than promoting the school, which was run by her daughter from 1916 to 1934.[20] Irish women groups such as the Lady Auxiliary of the Ancient Hibernians (the Celtic Cross Association and Irish White Cross were women's organizations) are mentioned. The Los Angeles leader of the Hibernian women, Marie Rose Donovan, is also depicted in a biographical sketch by her daughter.[21]

Few national and regional leaders receive more than a mention or official listing in the collection.[22] But an intimate view of California's contribution to Irish independence is obtained in the correspondence of several leaders with local reputation in San Francisco and Los Angeles. The San Francisco connection is seen in the work of Father Peter Yorke.[23] The Southern California contribution is most vividly observed in the wide variety of activities of Joseph Scott, the Los Angeles attorney who was styled as "Mr. Los Angeles" for his role in community and public projects. He is also considered the "father" of the California Knights of Columbus.[24] The

collection also underscores the importance of the Murray family (Murray's Bakery) especially Peter Murray, whose financial acumen was the key to the success of most Irish republican events in Los Angeles.[25] A few other prominent Angelenos are also visible in the papers, e.g., Edward Doheny, who was first national President of the A.A.R.I.R.[26]

The collection also highlights the republican militancy of the Los Angeles group when the nationalists divided over the policies of De Valera's government in 1936. During the split between the pro-De Valera faction (John Byrne) and the pro I.R.A. supporters (Peter Murray), the strength of the Los Angeles Irish-American community was dissipated on internecine struggles. The collection reveals the cause and nature of that rupture, as well as its aftermath.[27]

The collection also contains numerous published sources--many miscellaneous copies of the Irish Republic (the organ of the A.A.R.I.R.) from the 1920s to the 1930s. Similarly, a large number of issues of De Valera's Irish Press from 1931 to 1958 are on file. A large number of pamphlets and flyers, some of them rare, are also on file.[28] There are also photos and portraits of the prominent leaders. Oral history accounts in the form of tape recordings relating to the Irish-American movement in Los Angeles in the 1930s are important for the biographical information they impart.[29]

Finally, the most extensive portion of the collection relates to its namesake, John Byrne. The collection contains over 150 letters by and to him, including seven to Sean O'Kelly, the President of the Republic of Ireland in the 1950s.[30]

We started this brief survey of anti-English sources with a reference to Irish California exile Terence Bellew McManus. The Reverend Hugh Quigley, who knew him, depicted McManus's nationalist fervor in his book on The Irish Race in California: "He would have sacrificed life with joy to serve his country, and he would have suffered the severest tortures to set her free, and erect her into a nation."[31] Quigley's words could have applied to John Byrne as well. But unlike the unfortunate McManus, John Byrne actually had a hand in making the Irish dream of nationhood become a reality.

In the 1980s the Byrne Collection constitutes deja vu. California's Irish-Americans again have been called upon to fund another conflict in Ireland. Thanks to John Byrne and Mary Condon, we have a documentary record of that earlier struggle. Civil war, arms for Ireland, funds for dependents, and hunger strikes were all part of the earlier anti-British activities.

NOTES

1. Dr. Mary Condon (1916-1971) was a Los Angeles native--born on South Figueroa Street-- whose scholarly research and writings on Irish history were widely known. She received her doctorate from the University of Southern California in 1960 with a dissertation entitled "The Demand for Restricted Tenure of Land in Ireland, 1820-1835." She taught at San Jose State throughout the 1960's--traveling to Ireland in the summers. Before she became ill in the late 60's she began to gather sources relating to Irish-American activities in Los Angeles for a study of the California role in the Irish nationalist movement. She died before she completed this project--leaving the papers and materials she had collected as the John Byrne Collection in an incomplete state in the Special Collections Section of the San Jose State University Library. Librarian Gerald Rialson kept the collection together for several years. The author sorted documents and placed them in boxes mostly in the order in which Dr. Condon had left them. Some additional material was added to the collection after her death. Later Timothy Sarbaugh catalogued and indexed the materials. He added the fruits of his research to the collection as well. A related set of microfilmed documents pertaining to the military side of the War of Independence in Ireland (Michael Collins) are also "unofficially" housed at San Jose State University Library. On the nature of early Irish nationalism in California see Louis R. Bisceglia, "The McManus Welcome, San Francisco, 1851," Eire-Ireland, 16, 1

(Spring 1981) and "The Fenian Funeral of Terence Bellew McManus," Eire-Ireland, 14, 3 (Fall 1979). On its developments in the twentieth century see Timothy J. Sarbaugh, "Culture, Militancy, and De Valera: Irish-American Republican Nationalism in California, 1900-1936" (Unpublished M.A. Thesis, San Jose State University, 1980), the last half of which was largely composed from the Byrne Collection. He has added more recent material to the collection through the efforts of Dr. Mary Condon's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Condon, now of Rolling Hills Estates. She knew most of the people and events featured in the collection firsthand and provided myself and Professor Sarbaugh with a great deal of information.

2. Irish history is a quagmire of emotional, nationalistic and idealized rhetoric. Heavy portions of it are ladled with anti-English accounts which bear little relationship to historical fact. Thus great care must be taken in the examination of sources. An anecdotal bibliography of works pertaining to all the issues, events and personalities of the Byrne Collection would be too large for inclusion here, but the following should be helpful. For the historical frame of reference within which the collection falls one should consult the following: For a short, scholarly overview of modern Irish history see Lawrence McCaffrey, Ireland: From Colony to Nation State (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1979). Dr. McCaffrey, a second generation Irish American, is pro-nationalist, as are the other brief histories by J. C. Beckett (Northern Irish Protestant), Giovanni Costigan and

the highly readable, and fair account, by British journalist Robert Kee, The Green Flag (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1972). The Edmund Curtis history is old (published in 1936), but balanced and very good on the early period. On the history of dissident movements see Thomas E. Hachey, Britain and Irish Separatism 1867-1922 (Chicago: Rand-McNally, 1977); within the American context, Alan J. Ward, Ireland and Anglo-American Relations, 1899-1922 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1969); and Francis M. Carroll, American Opinion and the Irish Question, 1910-1923 (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1978), which is also usable for De Valera's early visits to the United States and the opposition he encountered; also John B. Duff, "The Versailles Treaty and the Irish-Americans," Journal of American History, 50 (December 1968), 589-98, which shows Irish-American influence on President Wilson; and Kenneth Maxwell, "Irish-Americans and the Fight for Treaty Ratification," Public Opinion Quarterly, 31 (Winter 1977-78), 620-41; and for California: James P. Walsh, "De Valera in the United States, 1919," Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia, 72 (September-December 1962), 92-102. For focus on the division within Irish-American ranks, zealously partisan Sean Cronin's The Joseph McGarrity Papers (Tralee, Anvil Books, 1972) is necessary. For clarification of the myriad twists and turns of events and sides in Ireland after the start of World War I see Alan J. Ward, The Easter Rising (Arlington Heights, Illinois: AHM Publishing Co., 1980), which is a brilliantly synthesized explication not only of that event, but also of how it is set within the context of

Irish history since 1800. On the Irish War of Independence (1919-1921) Charles Townshend, The British Campaign in Ireland (London: Oxford University Press, 1975), is by far the most reliable and masterful source; for a sympathetic treatment of De Valera and his followers during the Irish Civil War (1922-1923) see the Earl of Longford and Thomas O'Neill, Eamon De Valera (London: Hutchinson, 1970); D. J. Hickey and J. E. Doherty, A Dictionary of Irish History since 1800 (New York; Barnes & Noble, 1980) and Henry Baylon, A Dictionary of Irish Biography (New York: Barnes & Noble, 1978) are very useful references, as well as Cornelius O'Leary, Irish Elections 1918-1977 (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1979) for the period since the Civil War. Within the context of California's political history, Royce D. Delmatier et al eds., The Rumble of California Politics 1848-1970 (New York: Wiley, 1970), and Walton Bean, California: An Interpretive History, 2nd ed. (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1973) offer the best general references and sources for special bibliographic inquiries. Timothy Sarbaugh and the author are attempting to compile a compendium of Irish and Irish-American sources in California.

3. The collection has over 75 documents relating to the finances of various bond drives during the decade from 1920 to 1930 (mostly in Boxes A, B, C).

4. The American Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic was created by De Valera in November 1920 to direct diverse Irish-American support into one organization and to

wrest control of the Irish-American movement from the old Fenians who controlled the Friends of Irish Freedom organization that had raised money during World War I. The A.A.R.I.R. was designed to raise money for republican nationalists during the War of Independence. The organization was seriously weakened by the Irish Civil War, but remained viable in California as a springboard for De Valera's subsequent scheme for the establishment of a newspaper for his new Fianna Fail party after 1926. The Byrne Collection has over 100 items relating to the A.A.R.I.R. including a leaflet on its formation in Washington, D.C. in 1920 (G507) and a 16-page pamphlet by the Friends of Irish Freedom on its founding in California at a Fresno meeting (G508). The troubles experienced by the A.A.R.I.R. in the late 1920s and after can be followed in the correspondence between John Byrne, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Los Angeles Branch and William P. Lyndon, National Treasurer of the A.A.R.I.R. in Chicago. (Box C).

5. The Friends of Irish Freedom was founded at the Irish Race Convention, New York, March 4-5, 1916. Its first President was the composer Victor Herbert. It had the support of most of the large Irish-American groups, and it was clearly run by Irish-American nationalists John Devoy and Judge Cohalan. The F.O.I.F. supported the Easter Rising and raised a great deal of money to provide for dependents. In 1920, it claimed 100,000 members with over 400 branches claiming an additional 175,000 members. The organization raised more than $5 million following an appeal by De Valera for the new Irish Republic

proclaimed during the War of Independence with Britain (Boxes A, B, C, D). A split occurred between De Valera and John Devoy and Judge Daniel Cohalan in October 1920 largely over the control of the Irish-American coffers. De Valera founded the A.A.R.I.R. before leaving for the United States. The F.O.I.F. continued fitfully on paper for the next twelve years. It was terminated in 1932. Its assets were refunded to contributing members. The Byrne collection contains the Annual Report of the Executive Council, Friends of Irish Freedom, State Convention, Fresno, November 28, 1920, 16 pp. (G508). Also two anti-British pamphlets by De Valera's archrival Judge Cohalan, The Freedom of the Seas (New York: F.O.I.F. 1919) and The Indictment (New York: F.O.I.F., July 1919). (Box G).

6. The Ancient Order of Hibernians by tradition goes back to 1641. It was really founded as a Catholic counterforce to the Orange Order in 1838. The Order was officially founded in California in March 1852 during the aftermath of the McManus Welcome in San Francisco. It lost much of its earlier political nature by the twentieth century. It supported the F.O.I.F. and other groups. The items in the Byrne Collection relate largely to the Los Angeles Division 1917-1926 and the leadership of C. F. and P. T. Horan. It had a Ladies Auxiliary as well.

7. The Celtic Cross Association was headquartered in Chicago. Its President, Mrs. Mary F. McWhorter, was also National

President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (A56). She raised an enormous amount of funds very quickly, e.g., $34,000 in six months from February to July 1921 (A100). The Celtic Cross funds were distributed in Ireland by the Irish White Cross, a Sinn Fein organization created on February 1, 1921, to aid in the distribution of the funds from the Celtic Cross to republican families. Of the total White Cross funds collected by August 1921--a total of 1,375,000 pounds--more than 1,262,000 came from American sources. The Celtic Cross was authorized to collect funds under the auspices of the A.A.R.I.R. This authorization was given in a letter by De Valera to Mrs. McWhorter on April 7, 1921 (A97). The collection has about twenty items on the Celtic Cross Association.

8. The American Trade Defense Committee was instituted in 1921 as a largely unsuccessful attempt to boycott British goods. The Byrne Collection has about ten items relating to it and subsequent boycott attempts relating to the period 1921 to 1927 (A68, 75-76, 81, 86, B218a, C279-80, including the pamphlet A Few Cold Facts [Chicago: American Trade Defense Committee, n.d.], 16 pp. G501).

9. The American League for the Irish Freedom Fund existed from April 1918 to August 1919. The Byrne Collection has a letter from Joseph Scott, President of the Southern California Branch, closing its books (A14aa).

10. The American Committee of the Irish Republican Soldiers and Prisoners Dependents' Fund was headquartered in New York. (For the bylaws see Box I518). Its name took on various mutations, but the significant change comes in 1927 when it became the Irish Republican Army Dependents' Fund. Numerous treasurer and financial statements are in the collection. The disposition of the funds of this organization was an issue in the dispute that ultimately broke up the Los Angeles Irish republicans in 1936.

11. The Irish Press was a daily founded by De Valera in September 1931 (the Byrne Collection has the first issue) to provide a mouthpiece for his Fianna Fail party. Its first editor was Frank Gallagher. The editorial policy of the paper, however, was controlled by De Valera. In 1979 the newspaper had a circulation of about 100,000. The Byrne Collection has over fifteen items relating to its establishment (Box D376-390a, 432, passim; see especially, "Need For a National Irish-Daily Newspaper in Ireland" [A.A.R.I.R., 1930], 4 pp. Box C302.)

12. Eamon De Valera (1882-1975) was born in New York of a Spanish father and Irish mother. He was reared and educated in Ireland and became a mathematics professor. He participated in the Easter Rising in 1916, was sentenced to death, but received a commuted sentence instead and was jailed in England. He was released the next year, and he was elected President of the Sinn Fein. He was arrested and jailed in 1918, escaped

in 1919 and was elected President of the first Irish Parliament. When he perceived that the Versailles Conference was not going to grant Irish independence he came to the United States to raise funds for the Irish war against Britain (June 1919 to December 1921), whereupon he raised more than $5 million dollars. Irish-American leaders resented his power. De Valera formed his own coterie of followers in the A.A.R.I.R. He came to California in July and November 1919 to shore up the support of his legions. He returned for a third visit in the summer of 1920 to attend the Democratic Convention in San Francisco. He returned to Ireland in the midst of the War of Independence in December 1920, just when the British Auxiliaries and "Black and Tan" units were reeking their worst havoc. When Prime Minister Lloyd George instituted a truce in the summer of 1921 in order to negotiate a treaty settlement, De Valera supported his efforts. But when that negotiation produced the Irish Free State, still tied to England, and a partitioned Ireland, De Valera led the opposition to the acceptance of the Treaty and became the leader of the minority republican forces. When an element of republicans occupied the seat of the Irish judiciary in Dublin (called the Four Courts) in April 1922 the opposition to Treaty and the Free State became violent. On June 30th Free State forces ousted the rebels at the Four Courts and began the Irish Civil War (1922-1923). De Valera's role during the Civil War was minimal, but he was imprisoned upon its end in August 1923 to July 1924. Upon release he formed a new party, after a couple of abortive attempts, which was

called Fianna Fail, which won 20 percent of seats in 1927 and 25 percent the next year. De Valera deemed it necessary to have a newspaper to support his cause. Thus he launched a campaign to fund the Irish Press. He came to San Francisco in April 1927 and returned to California, visiting San Francisco and Los Angeles in January 1928, and once again for a final push in April 1930. Californians gave him a good deal of money to get the Irish Press into print. Historians have considered the Irish Press crucial to De Valera's success. Within a year of its first issue in September 1931, Fianna Fail had a resounding success in the election of 1932, winning 72 seats. De Valera was named President of the Executive Council and constituted a new government in which he reduced monarchal authority. In 1937 he launched a new constitution, and made economic peace with England. The republicans, now supported by Maud Gonne, split between those who continued to support De Valera and those who felt De Valera had sold out. Those who opposed him were the militants who called themselves the Irish Republican Army. They are the fore-bearers of the group involved in the Northern Ireland struggle in recent times. De Valera went on to pull Ireland out of the Commonwealth in 1949 by constituting the Republic of Ireland. His republican supporters by that date in California had already in 1936, splintered as had republicans in Ireland. After that split they no longer constituted a recognizable movement in California.

13. Frank Aiken (1898-- ), commandant during the War of Independence. He opposed the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921

and became the Chief-of-Staff of anti-Treaty forces in 1923. He was a confidant and spokesman for De Valera, subsequently becoming Defense minister in his first government and a Cabinet Minister for over thirty years (Irish Foreign Minister 1957-68). In 1926 he made the original arrangements for the Irish Press fund drive in California, visiting the state in April 1926, February 1927, and November 1928. The Collection has two publicity sheets for these visits and a letter after 1936 recounting the events (D391).

14. Austin Stack (1880-1929), a republican politician who was Home Affairs Minister in the provisional government of 1919-1921, sided with De Valera. He came to Los Angeles with De Valera in 1927 to deal with financial affairs.

15. Father Albert (Thomas Francis Bibby, 1877-1925) was exiled by his order to the United States. He was placed in charge of the Santa Inez Mission near Solvang. He died there in 1925. For thirty years California's Irish raised funds to get his remains reburied in Ireland. In 1955 Father Albert found a resting place in his homeland. About 20 documents, including photos, relate to Father Albert.

16. Over ten documents relate to Tom Fay (1900-1928).

17. Countess Markiewicz (Constance Gore-Booth, 1868-1927) was a republican nationalist born in County Sligo. In 1900 she married a Polish artist Casimir Markiewicz, but returned

to Ireland to found nationalist youth movements. Second in command to Michael Mallin during the Easter uprising 1916, she was arrested, but her death sentence was commuted. She was the first woman elected to the British House of Commons in 1918, but she did not take her seat. She was Labour Minister during the alternative Irish government (1919-1921). She vehemently opposed the 1921 Treaty. She was imprisoned for her support of De Valera republicans. During the Civil War, she visited California. She was very popular. Her meeting in Los Angeles on May 8, 1922, raised over $4,000. (B123, 125-128a).

18. Maud Gonne McBride (1866-1953) revolutionary propagandist, born in England of an army officer of Irish descent and an English mother. Mistress of W. B. Yeats, she founded several revolutionary women societies (e.g., Daughters of Ireland). She was jailed in 1918 for six months. She later worked for the Irish White Cross (1919-1921). In 1922 she organized the Women's Prisoners Defence League for which she campaigned in California. By 1936 she opposed De Valera and lent her voice to the militants. In 1938 she published her controversial autobiography, A Servant of the Queen. There are several biographies of her; however, the most accurate study is by Conrad Balliett, "The Lives--and Lies--of Maud Gonne," Eire-Ireland, 14, 3 (Fall, 1979), 17-44. Four references to her in the collection relate to dependent funds.

19. Mrs. Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington (1877-1946), daughter of County Tipperary Member of Parliament David Sheehy, became

a radical feminist and nationalist organizer (e.g., the Irish Women's Franchise League, 1908). She was a messenger in the Easter Rising 1916. In the chaos which followed, her husband, journalist Francis Sheehy-Skeffington (1878-1916), who had taken her name as his, was executed by an error of a British officer. She refused a settlement of 10,000 pounds from the British army. She lectured in the United States in 1916-1917; she returned to Ireland to engage in anti-British activities for which she was arrested and imprisoned. She was a member of the Executive Committee of the Sinn Fein and rejected the Treaty with England of 1921 as a halfway measure. She supported the republican dissidents during the Irish Civil War (De Valera) and visited California on their behalf during the early 1920s. The Byrne Collection has about seven items pertaining to her and her husband, including her photo and publicity with a biographical sketch, and copy of her pamphlet (G450) Forgotten Small Nationality: Ireland and the War. Mary MacSwiney (c.1872-1942). Born in London and reared and educated in Cork (hot-bed of Irish nationalism) she became a republican nationalist and propagandist. She was the sister of the revolutionary Lord Mayor of Cork (March-August, 1920), Terence MacSwiney (1879-1920), martyr to Irish cause when he died while on a hunger strike. She had been arrested in the Easter Rising 1916. Upon her brother's death, she replaced him in the Irish Parliament. She passionately opposed the Treaty settlement of 1921 and overtly supported the opposition (De Valera) forces. She made numerous tours of the United States and

several to California, where she spoke to large groups. She accompanied De Valera to San Francisco and Los Angeles in April 1927. She later broke with him over the role of the Fianna Fail party. The collection contains materials relating to her San Francisco meeting in March 1921, including a copy of her address (31pp. Box G453), also publicity sheets with biographical sketches for her March 1925 California tour.

20. Mrs. Margaret Pearse was a native of County Meath. She married an English monumental sculptor. Her son, Patrick Pearse (1879-1916), was the principal architect of the Easter Rising of 1916, and was executed. Earlier he had founded a Gaelic nationalist school, St. Enda's College at Rathfarnham, which was run by his equally famous sister Miss Margaret Pearse (1878-1969) for seventeen years after his death. She later became a Member of the Irish Parliament and retained her seat for over thirty-five years. Both mother and daughter toured the United States during the 1920s, ostensibly to raise funds for St. Enda's. The Byrne Collection has about six items pertaining to Mrs. Margaret Pearse's visit to Los Angeles in August 1924 during which she repeatedly referred to the Irish Free State as the Irish Slave State. (See Box B183.1 and B183.12-13). The latter also has an item on the March 16, 1924, visit to California of Mrs. Tom Clarke (Mrs. Kathleen Daly Clarke, 1879-1972, Irish Senator from 1937 to her death). Her Fenian husband, Thomas J. Clarke (1858-1916), was an organizer of the Irish Republican Brotherhood

and had the closest revolutionary ties between the movements in the United States (where he lived for 25 years and had become a naturalized citizen) and those in Ireland, which he helped institute. He was the senior member of the provisional government proclaimed by the Easter Rising Rebels, and his was the first signature on the Proclamation of Independence. He was executed for his role in the Rising.

21. Marie Rose Donovan (1889-1950), second generation Irish-American born in New York, emigrated to San Francisco, and after the 1906 earthquake, to Los Angeles. She was intimately tied to the Los Angeles Irish republican community. The collection has a thirty-minute tape (J534) with her daughter Margaret Donovan Kelly and a three-page biographical sketch as well (J531); the latter is the goddaughter of Peter Murray. When the Ancient Order of Hibernians split over the De Valera republican stance in 1919-1920, Mrs. Marie Rose Donovan became a bulwark of the staff of the A.A.R.I.R. in Los Angeles.

22. A few references in the collection related to Senator James Phelan (1861-1930), who lost his clout with the Irish-American republicans by his support of Wilson and the League in 1919 and Senator Samuel Shortridge (1861-1952), his conservative Republican successor, who often made speeches on behalf of Ireland in the 1920s.

23. Father Peter Christopher Yorke (1864-1925) was the leading Irish republican force in California. His publication, <u>The</u>

Leader (entire run) is held at the Sutro and Gleason Libraries, University of San Francisco. It should be consulted in conjunction with the Byrne materials. The collection has about 15 documents on him but none on his alter ego, San Francisco Supervisor and labor leader Andrew J. Gallagher. The collection does have Yorke's, America and Ireland (San Francisco: F.O.I.F., 1918). The biography by Joseph Brusher, Consecrated Thunderbolt (1973), is not entirely satisfactory. See James Walsh, Ethnic Militancy: An Irish Catholic Prototype (San Francisco: The Irish Literary and Historical Society, 1978) for Yorke's role as a U.C. Berkeley regent. Also see Sarbaugh, "Culture, Militancy, and De Valera," Chapters 1 through 7.

24. Joseph Scott (1867-1958) was a Los Angeles attorney who headed the A.A.R.I.R. and other Irish organizations. The Byrne Collection has twenty items relating to his role in the Los Angeles A.A.R.I.R. and other Irish republican affairs mostly during the period 1919-1926. (Numerous items in Boxes A, B, C, D, J). See Sister Anita Weyer, "Joseph Scott: A Life of Service," Southern California Quarterly, 48 (September 1966), 241-64.

25. John "Dad" Murray (d.1956) was an early member of the Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood (1871) who immigrated to Oakland at the turn of the century with his wife and three sons: Peter, George and Arthur. They established a bakery, and upon John's wife's death in 1904, they moved to Los Angeles--establishing Murray's Bakery at South and Park Streets. John

and his sons George and Arthur took part in all of the Irish nationalists affairs; however, the leadership role was assumed by Peter Murray (1887-1945), who was probably the most zealous of the Irish-American organizers in Los Angeles. The collection has numerous items pertaining to the Murray family: The Murray interview on tape conducted by Mary Condon in August 1968 was with Arthur and George Murray (J532); all three died shortly thereafter. On the Wehrly tape the Murray's are described as "the ones always behind the Irish scene." (J535). For the Murray family, see A53 and B134; on John, C249; on Arthur and George, B134, 145; on the death of Peter, D419, passim.

26. Edward Doheny (1856-1935), discoverer of the Los Angeles oil field in 1892, was worth over an estimated $100 million dollars. He gave liberally to the Irish causes. Document A67, in the form of an A.A.R.I.R. bulletin, has reference to Doheny's speech to the national meeting in Chicago.

27. See the Byrne-Murray and Byrne-Lyndon correspondence. There was a happier side as well: See Byrne to Peter Murray, August 18, 1932 (D417 and following folder), on the pride of the Irish Angelenos over the Irish contingent's two gold medals in track and field events of the 1932 Olympic games held in Los Angeles.

28. See, for example, the imaginative republican propaganda pamphlet by Redfern Mason, Rebel Ireland (San Francisco: A.A.R.I.R., 1923), 71pp.